PURUSHOTTAM DEV AND PADMAVATI

Purushottam Dev, the Prince of Kalinga is a staunch devotee of Lord Jagannatha of Puri. During a ride in a forest he meets and falls in love with Princess Padmavati of Kanchi. It is an ideal match and both sides are happy. According to tradition, Purushottam Dev sweeps the chariot of Jagannatha during the Car Festival. Padmavati's father is furious when he hears of this and refuses to marry his daughter to one who wields a broom.

This Amar Chitra Katha is based on a legend from Orissa.

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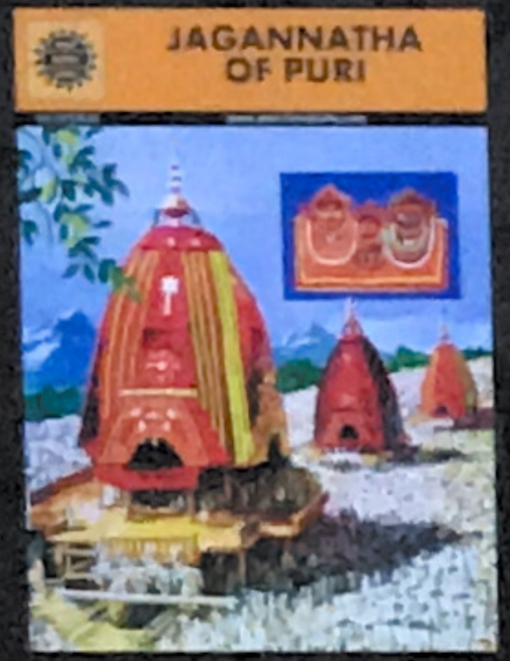

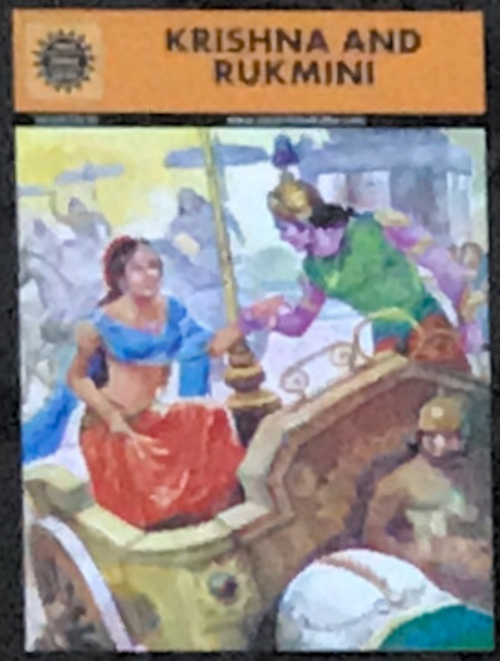

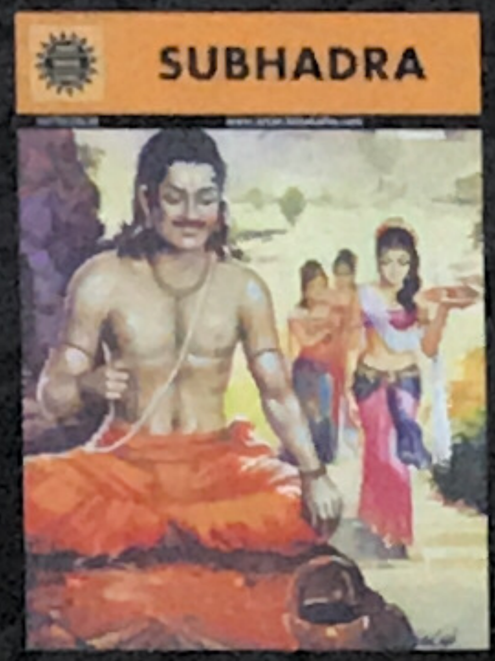

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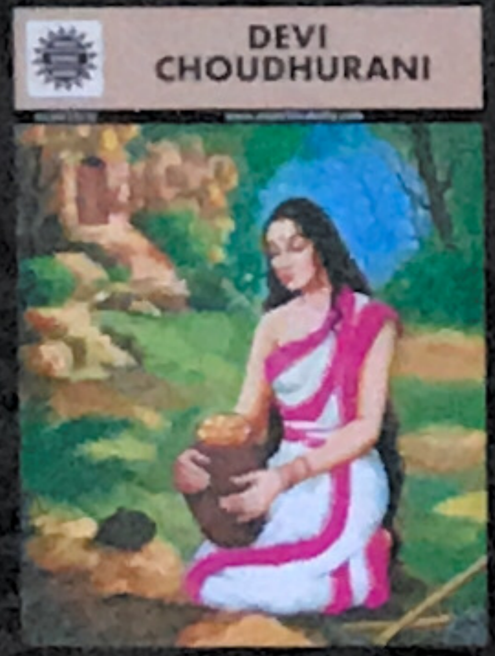

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ISBN 81-8482-348-7

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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

PURUSHOTTAM DEV AND PADMAVATI

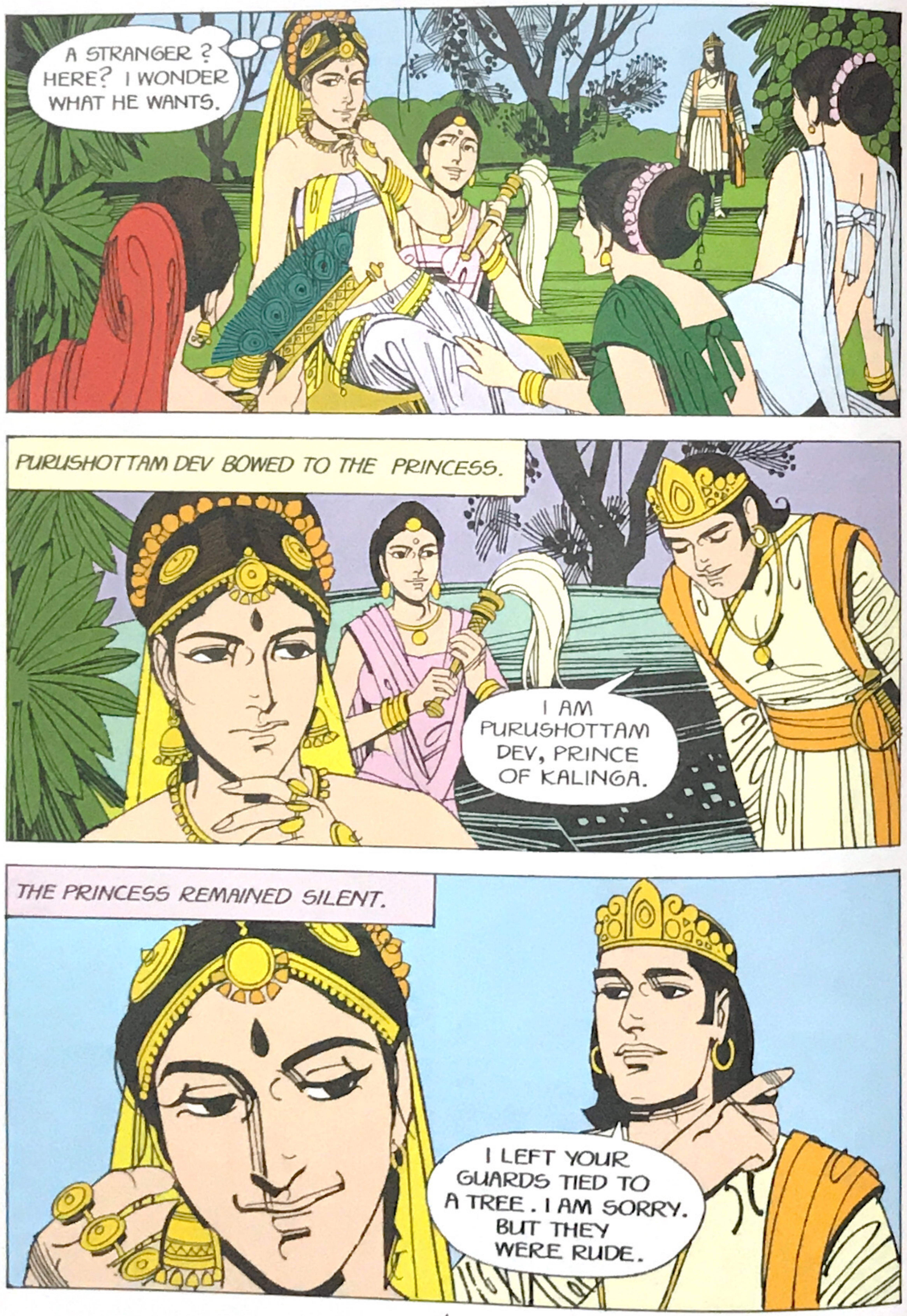
THEIR ALLY WAS JAGANNATHA

Vol 768 | ₹50

PURUSHOTTAM DEV and PADMAVATI

ONE DAY, HE AND HIS COMPANIONS CAMPED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A FOREST IN THE KINGDOM OF KANCHI.
SUDDENLY—
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DEER!
PURUSHOTTAM DEV FOLLOWED THE DEER INTO THE FOREST.
I SHALL TRACK IT DOWN.

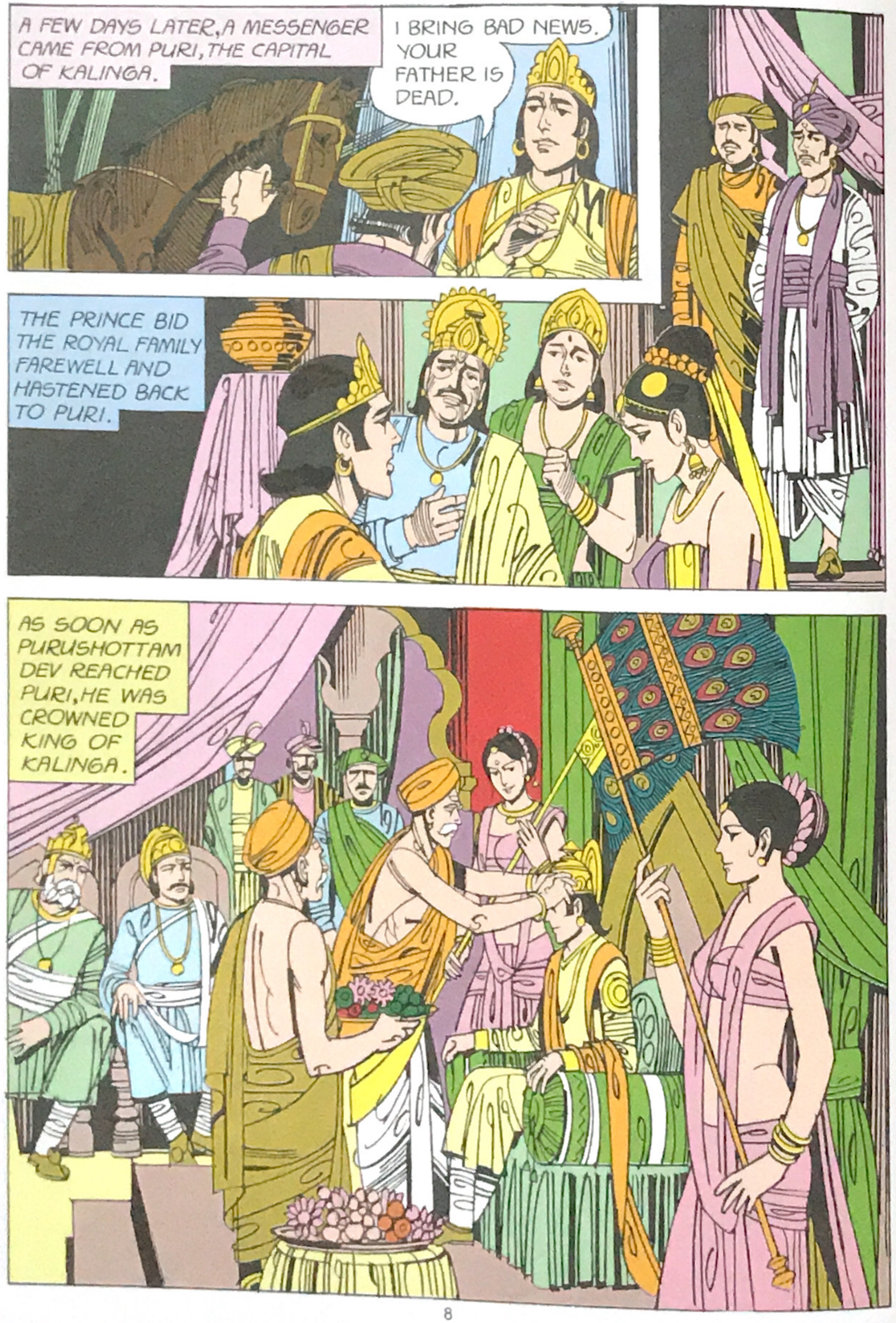
BUT BEFORE HE COULD GO FAR, TWO STRONG MEN BLOCKED HIS WAY.
HALT! HOW DARE YOU DISTURB THE PEACE IN THE FOREST? DON'T YOU KNOW THAT PRINCESS PADMAVATI IS HERE?
WE WILL BIND YOU AND TAKE YOU TO HER.
IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN TWO LIKE YOU TO BIND ME!
NOW RELAX WHILE I PRESENT MYSELF TO YOUR PRINCESS.


A STRANGER? HERE? I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS.
PURUSHOTTAM DEV BOWED TO THE PRINCESS.
I AM PURUSHOTTAM DEV, PRINCE OF KALINGA.
THE PRINCESS REMAINED SILENT.
I LEFT YOUR GUARDS TIED TO A TREE. I AM SORRY. BUT THEY WERE RUDE.

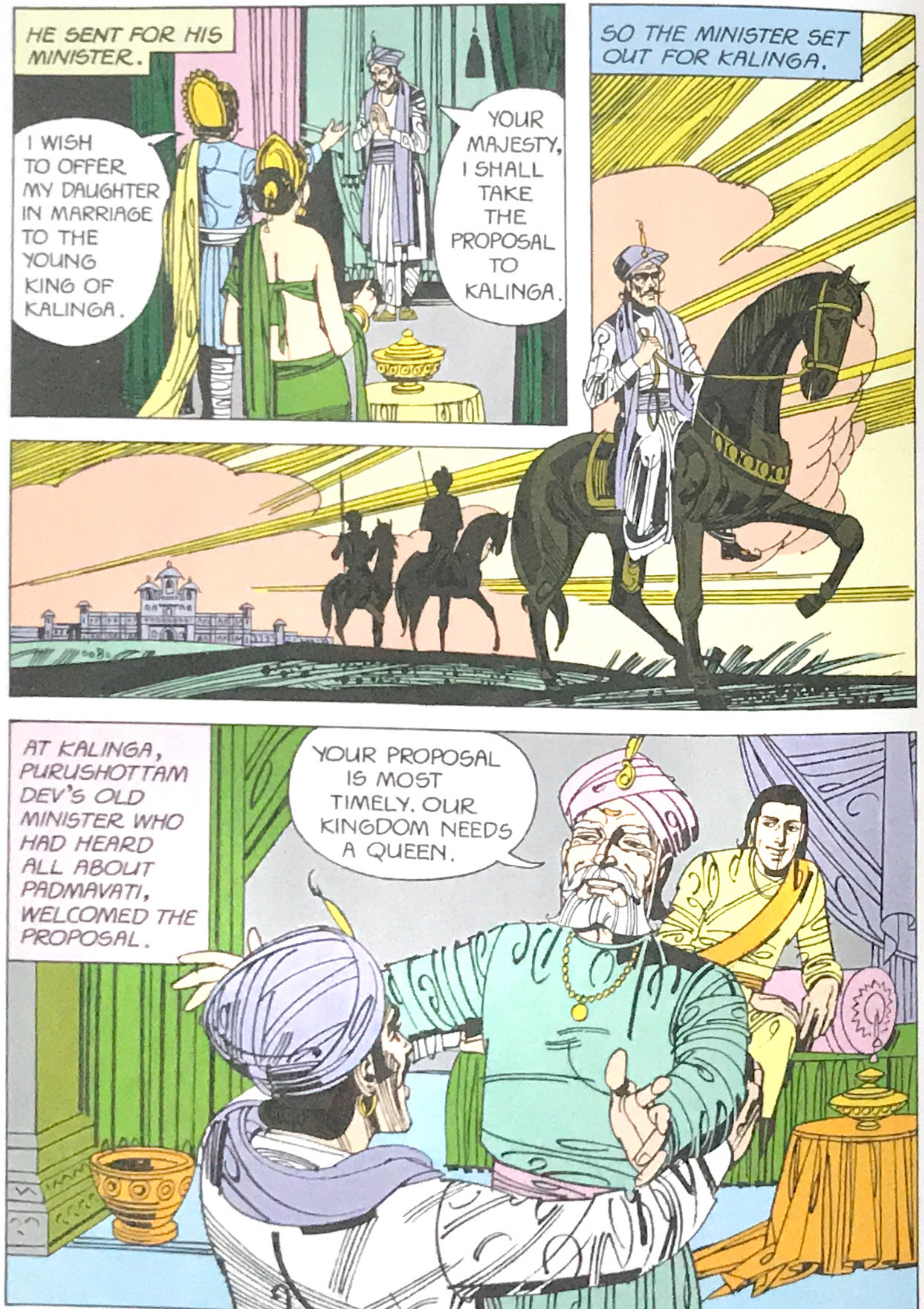
HOW HANDSOME AND STRONG HE LOOKS. WHAT NOBLE BEARING!
I MUST RUSH HOME AND TELL MY PARENTS ABOUT HIM.
AT THE PALACE—
...AND SINGLE-HANDED HE OVERCAME TWO OF MY GUARDS.

THE KING TURNED TO HIS MINISTER.
WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE PRINCE OF KALINGA TO PASS THROUGH OUR KINGDOM LIKE A COMMONER. GO INVITE HIM TO THE PALACE.
THE MINISTER HURRIED TO PURUSHOTTAM DEV'S CAMP.
OUR KING SENDS YOU HIS GREETINGS. HE WOULD LIKE TO ENTERTAIN YOU AT THE PALACE.
I AM HONOURED!
AT THE PALACE—
O MIGHTY KING OF KANCHI, I AM PLEASED TO MEET YOU. YOURS IS A DELIGHTFUL KINGDOM.

BUT EVEN MORE DELIGHTFUL IS YOUR DAUGHTER.
I WELCOME YOU, NOBLE PRINCE. PLEASE BE OUR GUEST FOR A FEW DAYS.
PURUSHOTTAM DEV EAGERLY ACCEPTED THE INVITATION. HE OCCUPIED HIMSELF WITH VARIOUS ROYAL SPORTS AND REGALED HIS HOSTS WITH FASCINATING TALES OF TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE.


A FEW DAYS LATER, A MESSENGER CAME FROM PURI, THE CAPITAL OF KALINGA.
I BRING BAD NEWS. YOUR FATHER IS DEAD.
THE PRINCE BID THE ROYAL FAMILY FAREWELL AND HASTENED BACK TO PURI.
AS SOON AS PURUSHOTTAM DEV REACHED PURI, HE WAS CROWNED KING OF KALINGA.

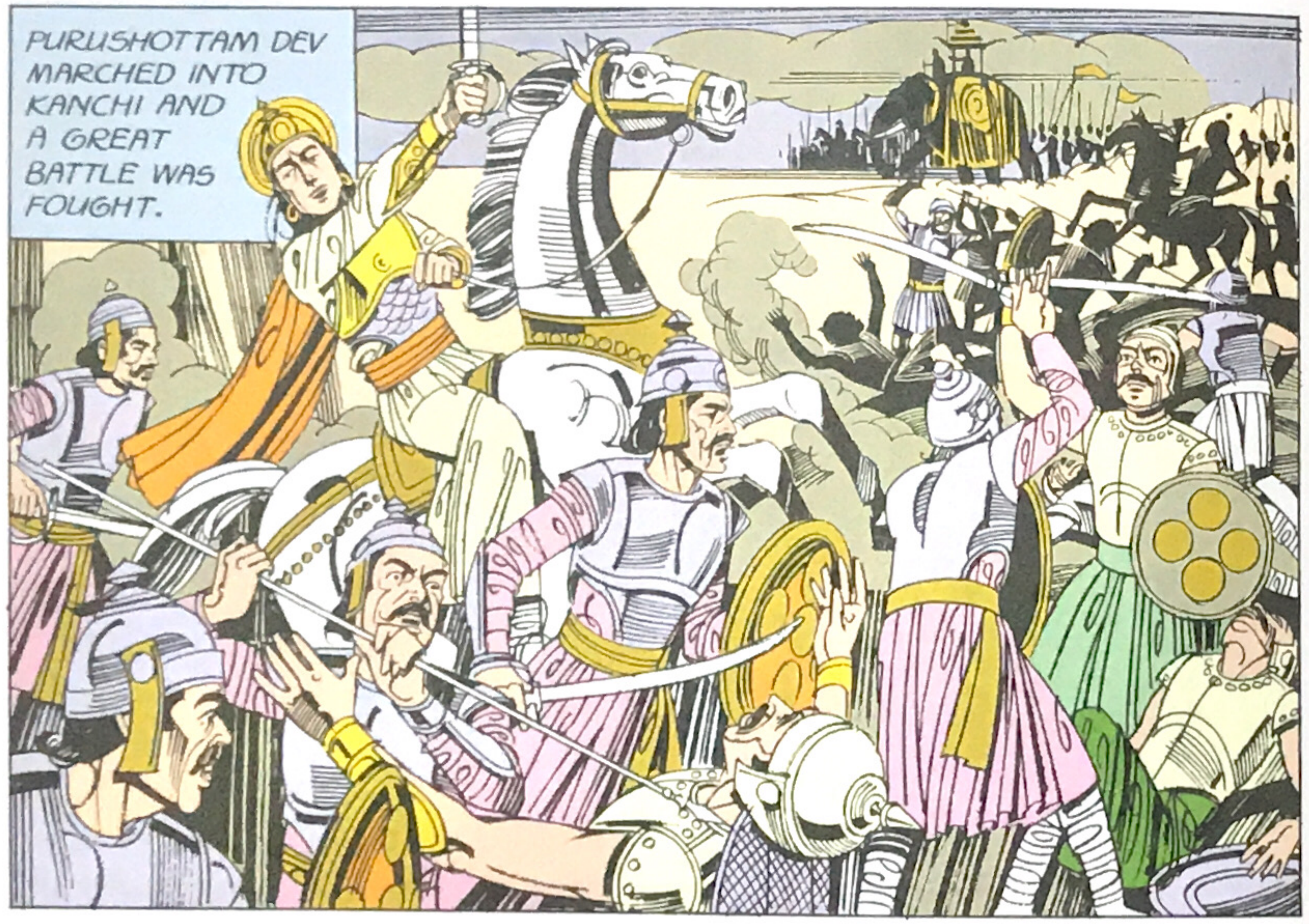
BUT HE COULD NOT FORGET PADMAVATI.
HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY, PADMAVATI TOO THOUGHT AND DREAMT OF HIM.
AT LAST HER CLOSE COMPANIONS DECIDED TO TELL THE QUEEN ABOUT IT.
OUR PRINCESS IS IN LOVE WITH THE KING OF KALINGA.
I HAD SUSPECTED IT. I SHALL SPEAK TO HER FATHER.
THE KING WAS DELIGHTED.
I KNEW YOU WOULD.
SHE COULD NOT HAVE SET HER HEART ON A BETTER PERSON. I SHALL SETTLE MATTERS FAST.

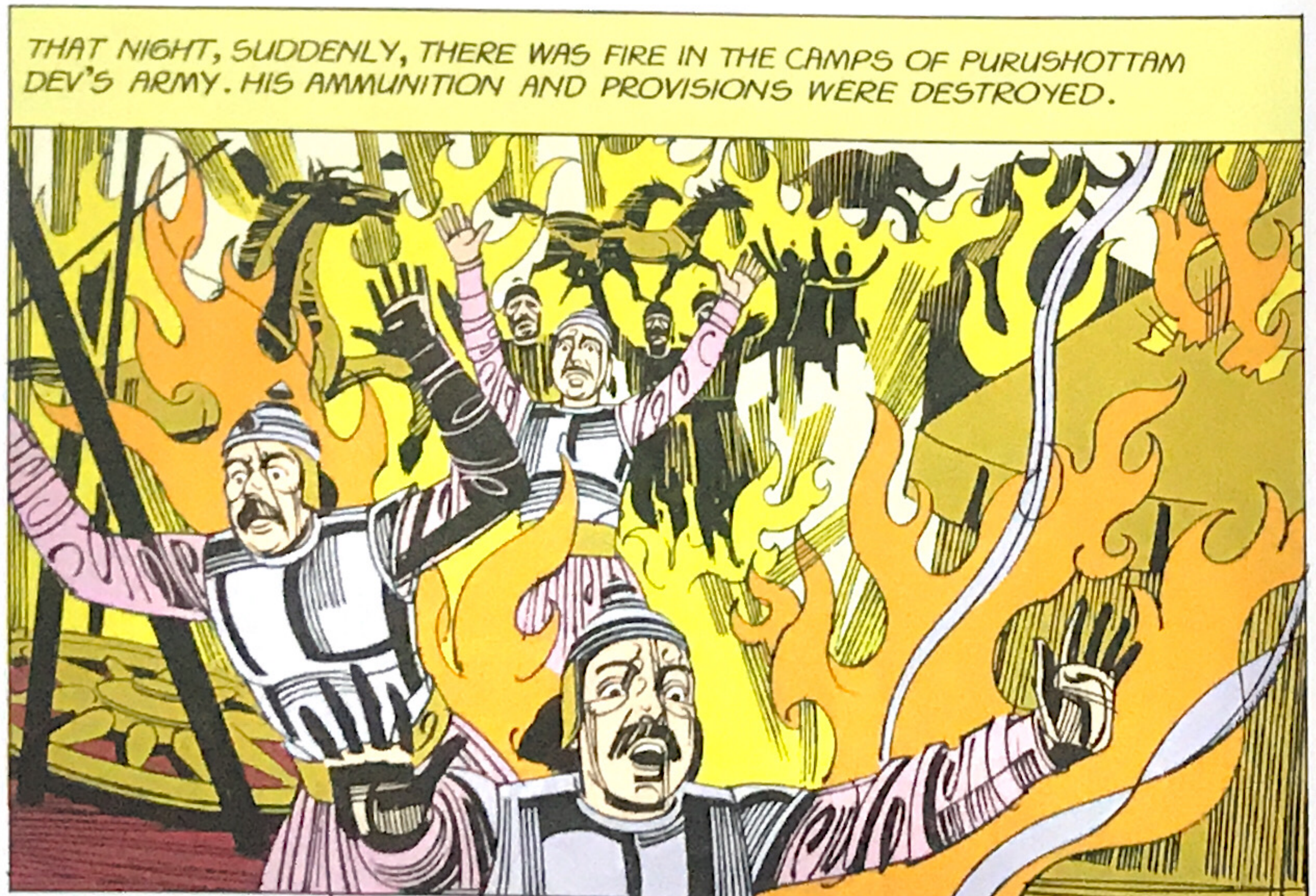


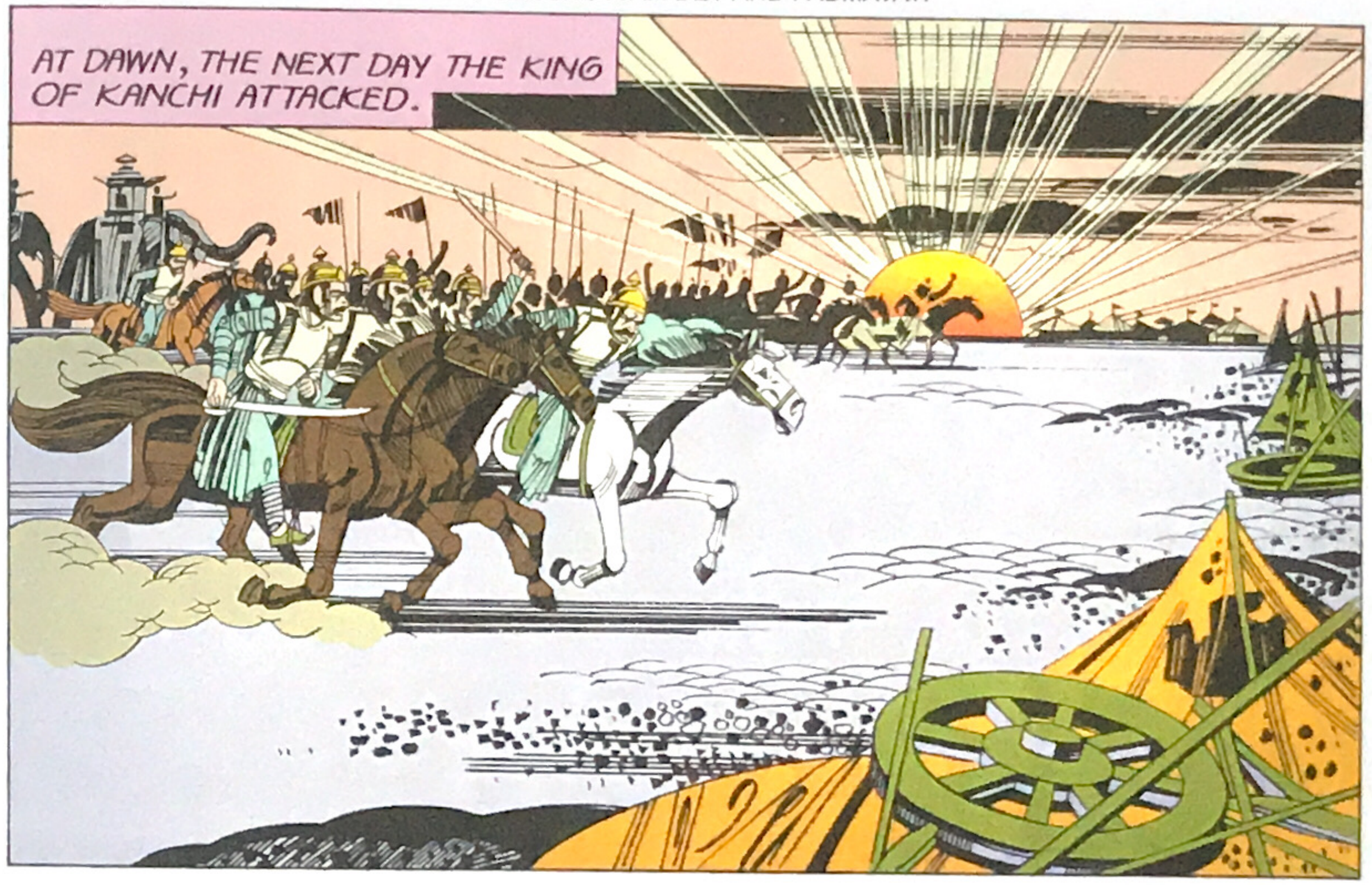
* CHARIOT (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE AUTOMOBILE)

BACK AT KANCHI, AFTER THE MINISTER TOLD THE KING ABOUT THE STRANGE SIGHT HE SAW–
IT WOULD NEVER DO. OUR PRINCESS CANNOT WED A KING WHO SWEEPS CHARIOTS.
NEVER!
PLEASE SEND WORD THAT OUR PROPOSAL IS WITHDRAWN.
AT PURI–
A DAUGHTER OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF KANCHI CANNOT MARRY A KING WHO WIELDS THE BROOM.
I SHALL COME TO KANCHI AND EXPLAIN.

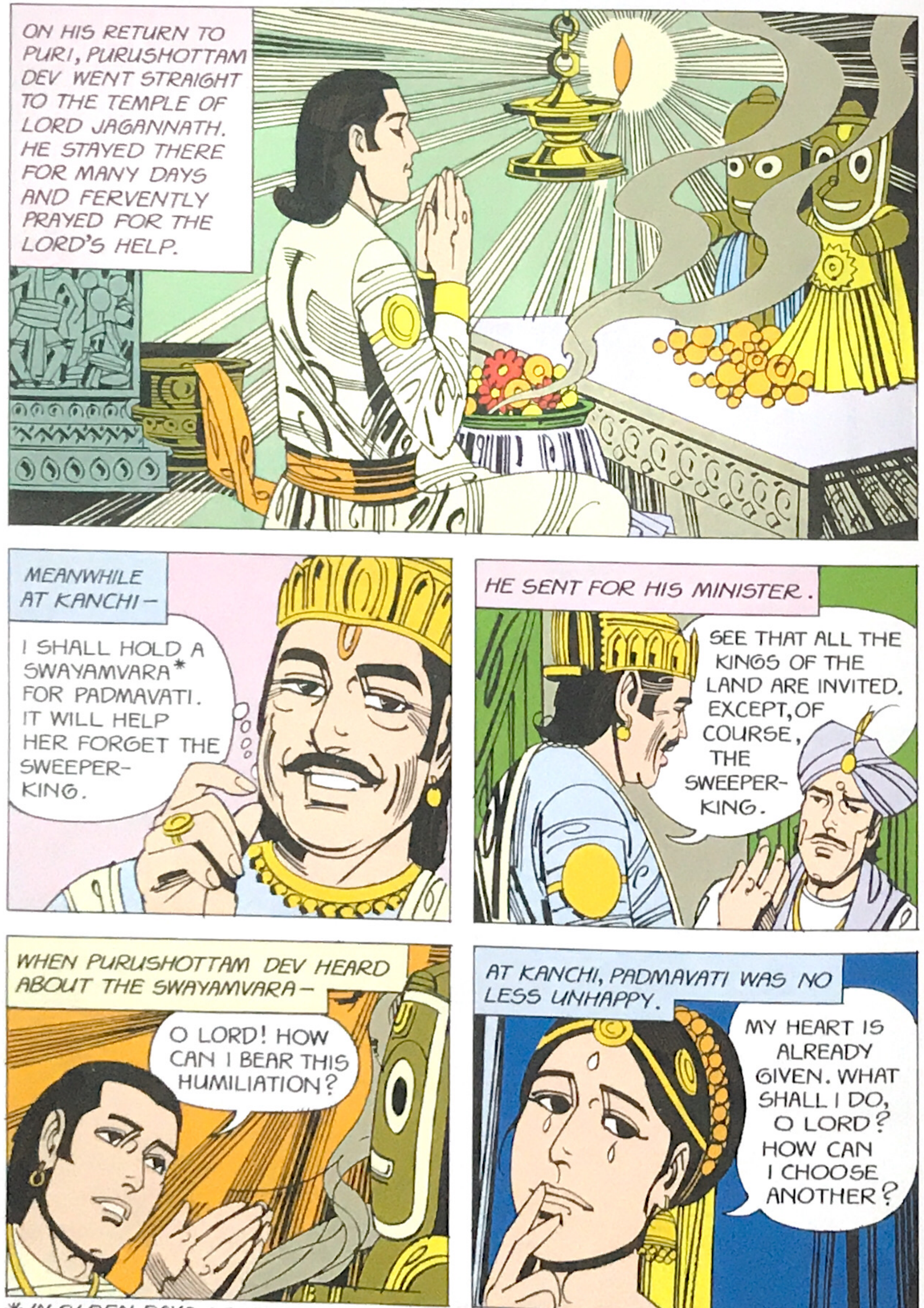
THE OLD MINISTER MADE THE LONG TRIP TO KANCHI. AT THE COURT–
YOUR HIGHNESS, MY KING HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD.
THE ACT EMPHASISES THAT EVEN THE KING IS ONLY A SERVANT OF GOD.
I AM SORRY. I AM NOT CONVINCED.
THE HUMILIATED MINISTER RETURNED TO PURI.
YOUR HIGHNESS, THE KING OF KANCHI REFUSES TO GIVE HIS DAUGHTER TO YOU BECAUSE YOU SWEPT THE CHARIOT FOR THE FESTIVAL.
I SHALL TAKE THIS UP WITH HIM – ON THE BATTLEFIELD.


PURUSHOTTAM DEV MARCHED INTO KANCHI AND A GREAT BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.


THAT NIGHT, SUDDENLY, THERE WAS FIRE IN THE CAMPS OF PURUSHOTTAM DEV'S ARMY. HIS AMMUNITION AND PROVISIONS WERE DESTROYED.

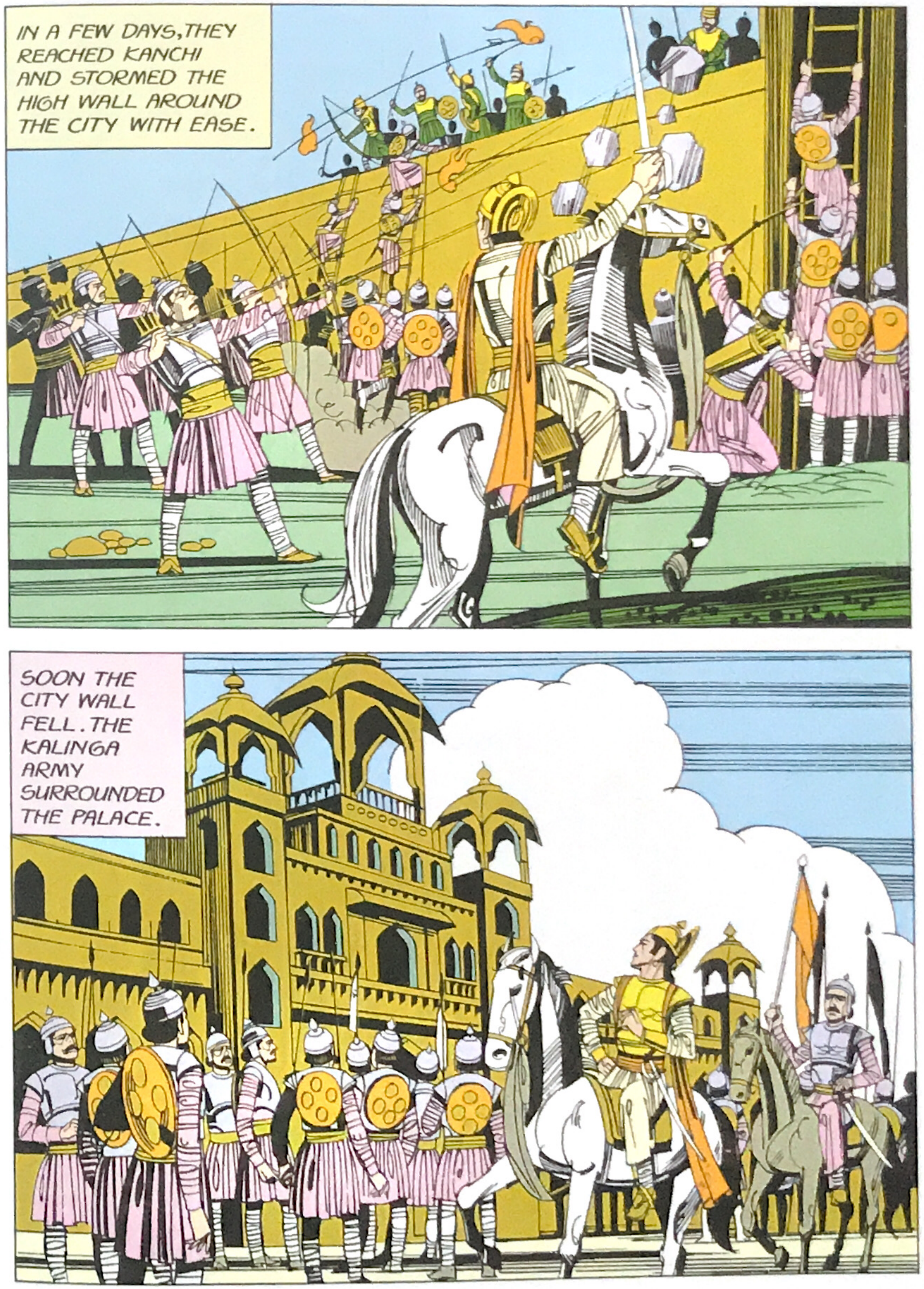

AT DAWN, THE NEXT DAY THE KING OF KANCHI ATTACKED.

PURUSHOTTAM DEV WAS FORCED TO RETREAT.
YOU SHALL PAY FOR THIS IN OUR NEXT BATTLE, O KING OF KANCHI.

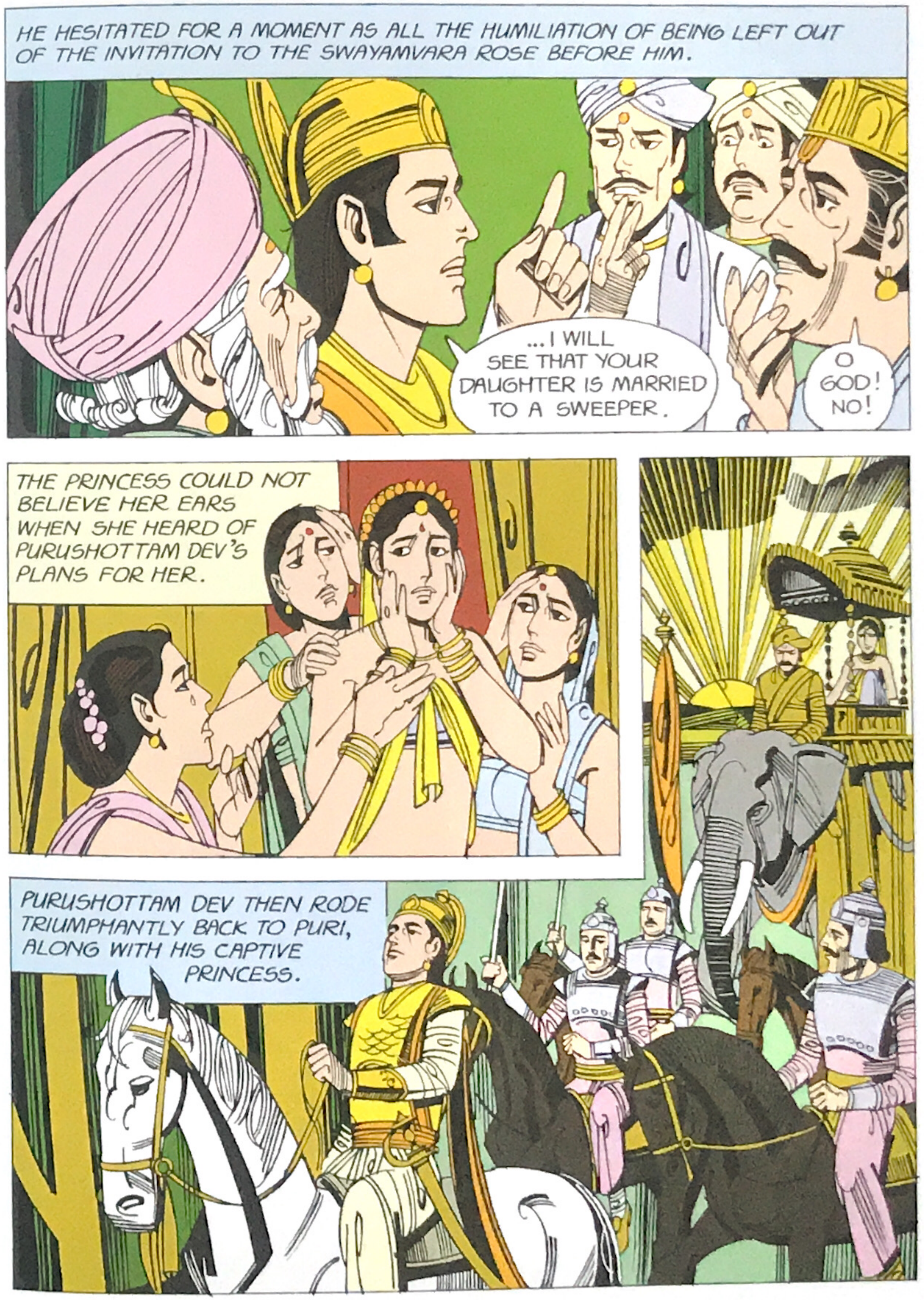


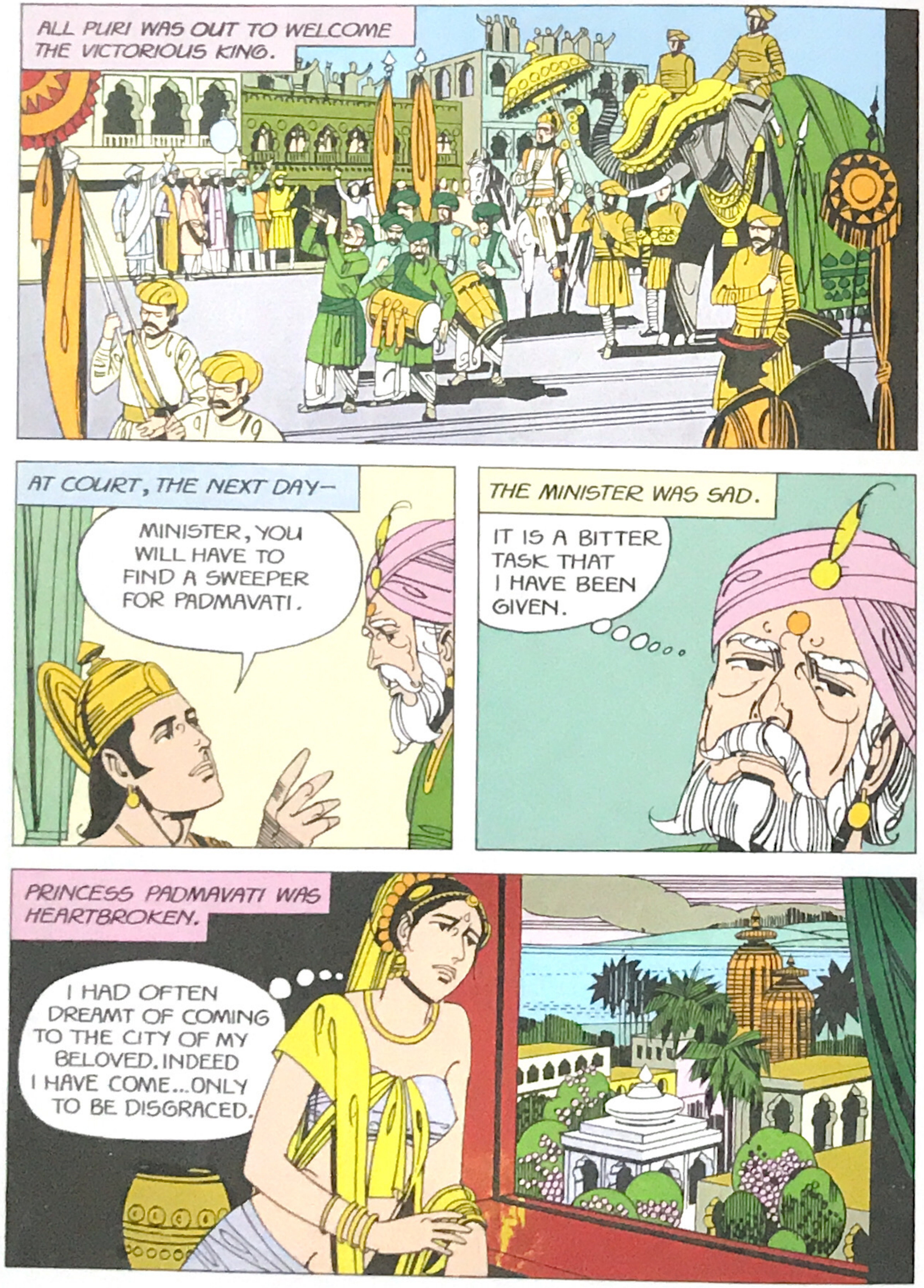
* IN OLDEN DAYS, A GIRL OF THE KSHATRIYA CASTE WAS PERMITTED TO CHOOSE HER HUSBAND FROM AMONG SEVERAL SUITORS.

*KRISHNA +TOWN



AND FINALLY THE DOORS OF THE PALACE TOO WERE FORCED OPEN.
NOW THAT VICTORY WAS THEIRS, PURUSHOTTAM DEV ORDERED HIS SOLDIERS TO CALM DOWN.
NO MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY SHOULD BE INSULTED OR INJURED IN ANY MANNER.
WITHIN MOMENTS, THE KING OF KANCHI WAS BROUGHT BEFORE HIM.
WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO WITH ME?
NOTHING. YOU SHALL BE FREED. BUT...

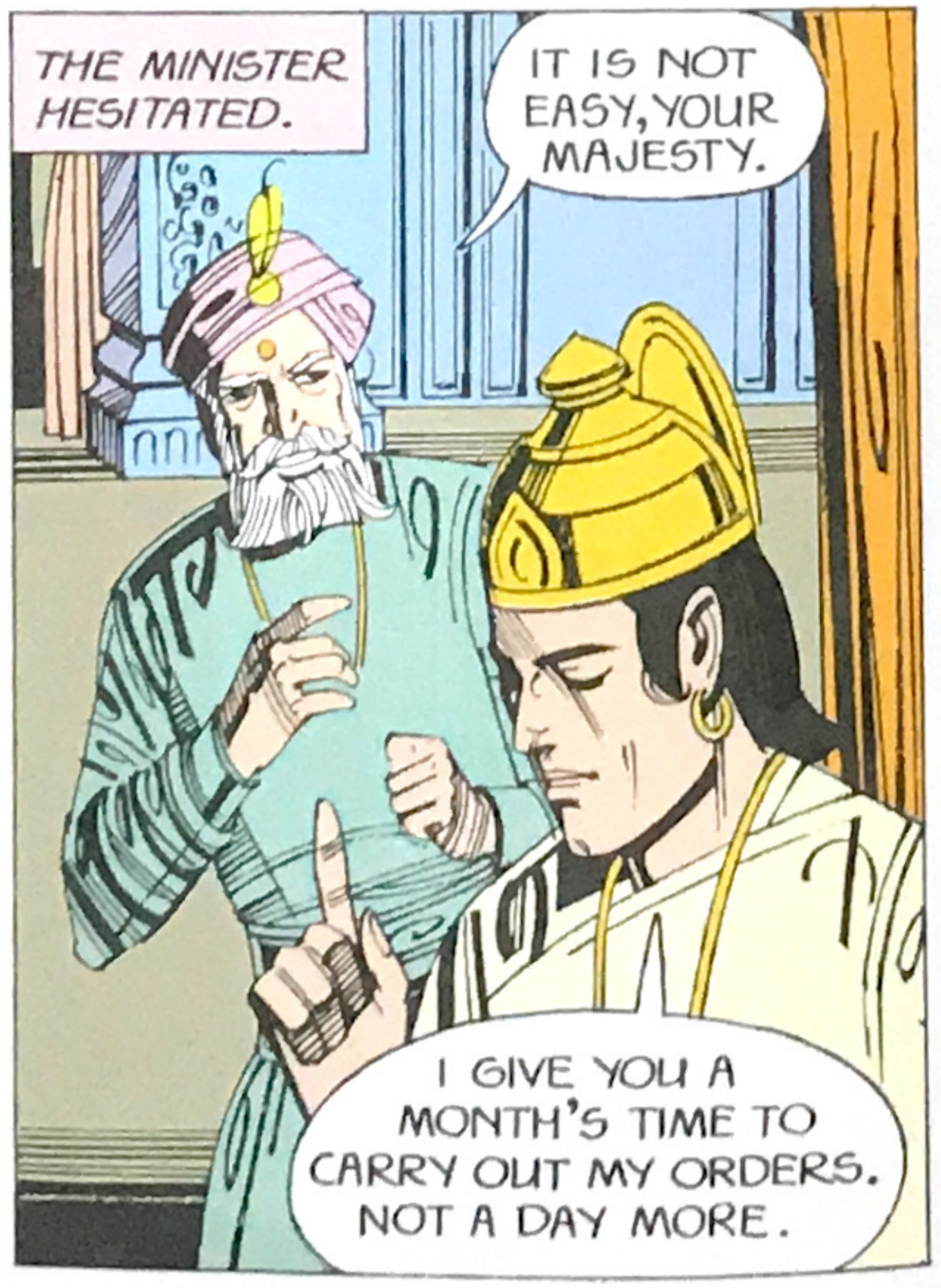

HE HESITATED FOR A MOMENT AS ALL THE HUMILIATION OF BEING LEFT OUT OF THE INVITATION TO THE SWAYAMVARA ROSE BEFORE HIM.
...I WILL SEE THAT YOUR DAUGHTER IS MARRIED TO A SWEEPER.
O GOD! NO!
THE PRINCESS COULD NOT BELIEVE HER EARS WHEN SHE HEARD OF PURUSHOTTAM DEV'S PLANS FOR HER.
PURUSHOTTAM DEV THEN RODE TRIUMPHANTLY BACK TO PURI, ALONG WITH HIS CAPTIVE PRINCESS.


ALL PURI WAS OUT TO WELCOME THE VICTORIOUS KING.
AT COURT, THE NEXT DAY–
MINISTER, YOU WILL HAVE TO FIND A SWEEPER FOR PADMAVATI.
THE MINISTER WAS SAD.
IT IS A BITTER TASK THAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN.
PRINCESS PADMAVATI WAS HEARTBROKEN.
I HAD OFTEN DREAMT OF COMING TO THE CITY OF MY BELOVED. INDEED I HAVE COME... ONLY TO BE DISGRACED.

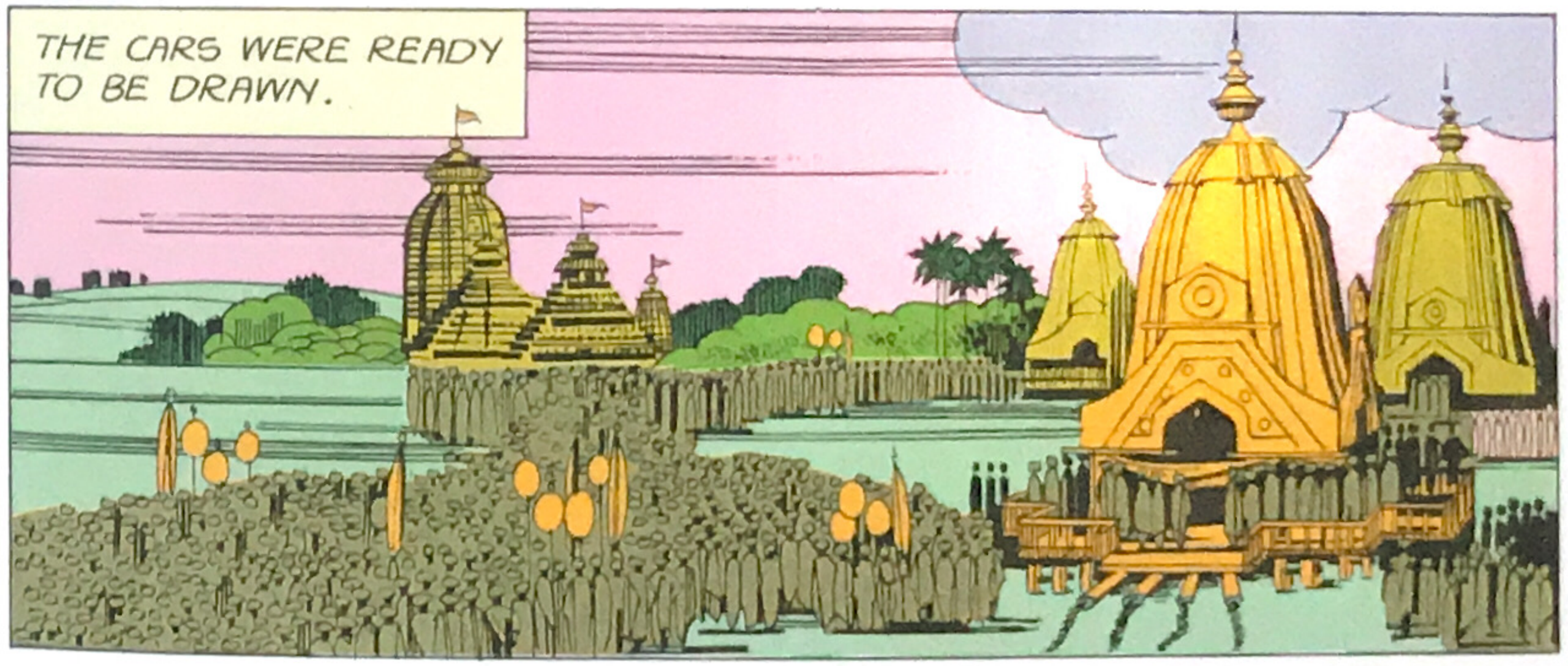
THEN SHE LOOKED AT THE RING ON HER FINGER AND SMILED TO HERSELF.
BUT POISON, YOU ARE LOYAL AND SHALL BE MY DELIVERANCE.
ONE DAY, THE OLD MINISTER MET THE YOUNG KING IN PRIVATE.
MY LORD! PLEASE CHANGE YOUR DECISION.
NEVER! I HAVE MADE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.
NEVERTHELESS PURUSHOTTAM DEV WAS THE WORST SUFFERER.
I LOVE HER. HOW CAN I SEE HER MARRIED TO A SWEEPER?
YET I CANNOT GO BACK ON MY OWN DECISION.

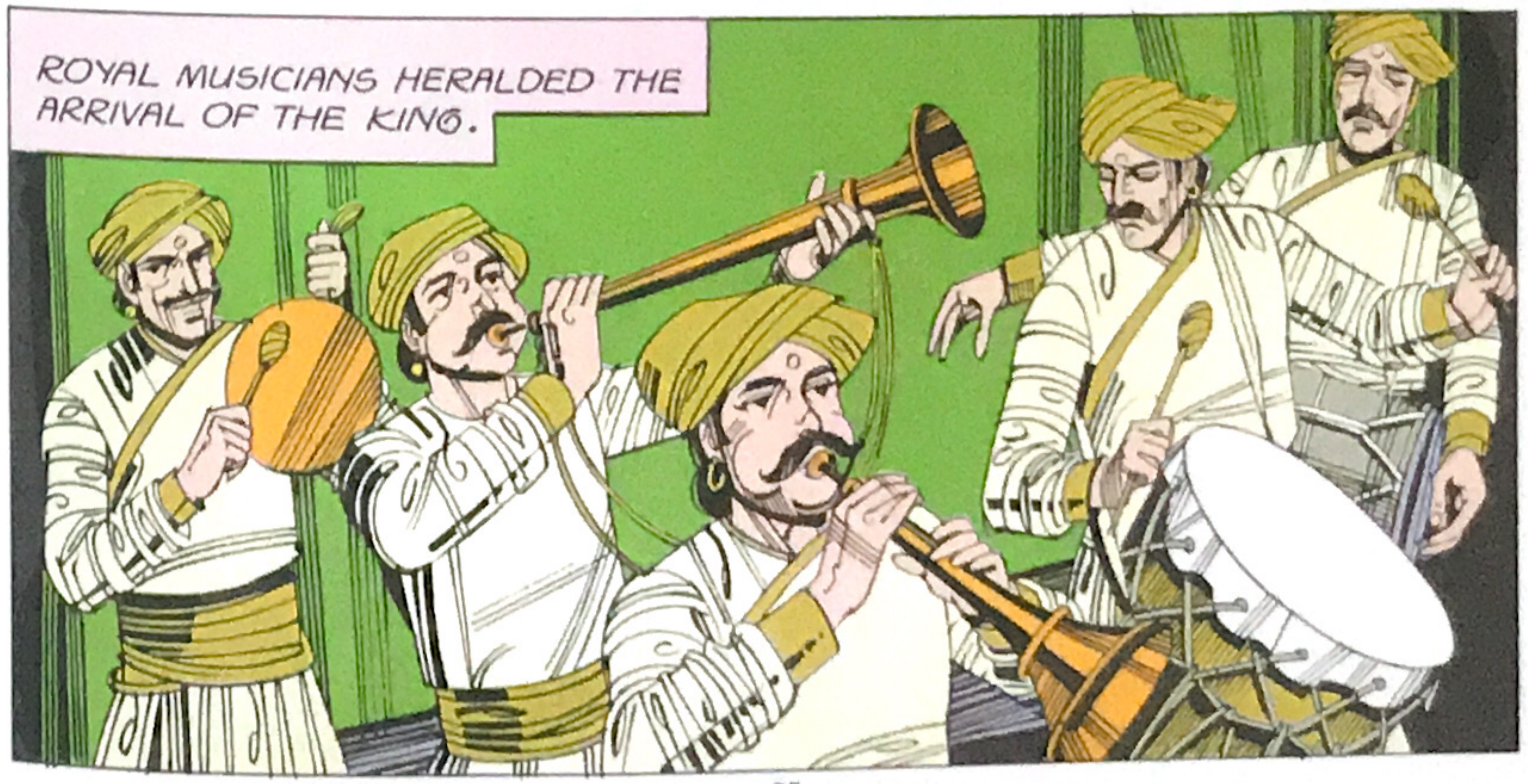
IT WAS A MOONLIT NIGHT. AS HE LOOKED OUT OF HIS WINDOW, HE SAW PADMAVATI ON THE PALACE TERRACE.
I WILL HAVE NO PEACE AS LONG AS PADMAVATI IS HERE. SHE MUST BE MARRIED OFF IMMEDIATELY.

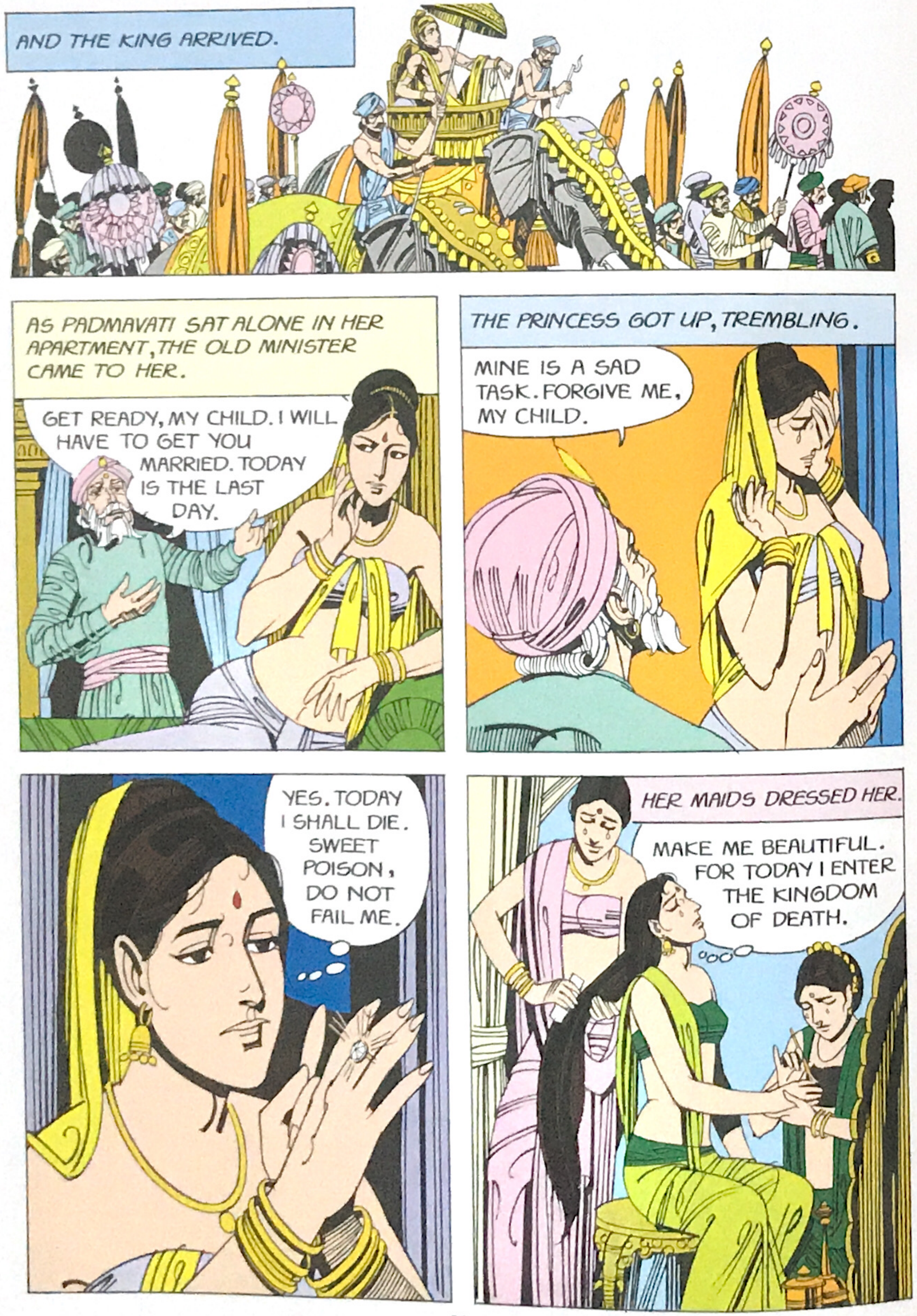
THE NEXT MORNING, HE CALLED HIS MINISTER TO HIM.
HAVE YOU FOUND THE SWEEPER FOR PADMAVATI?

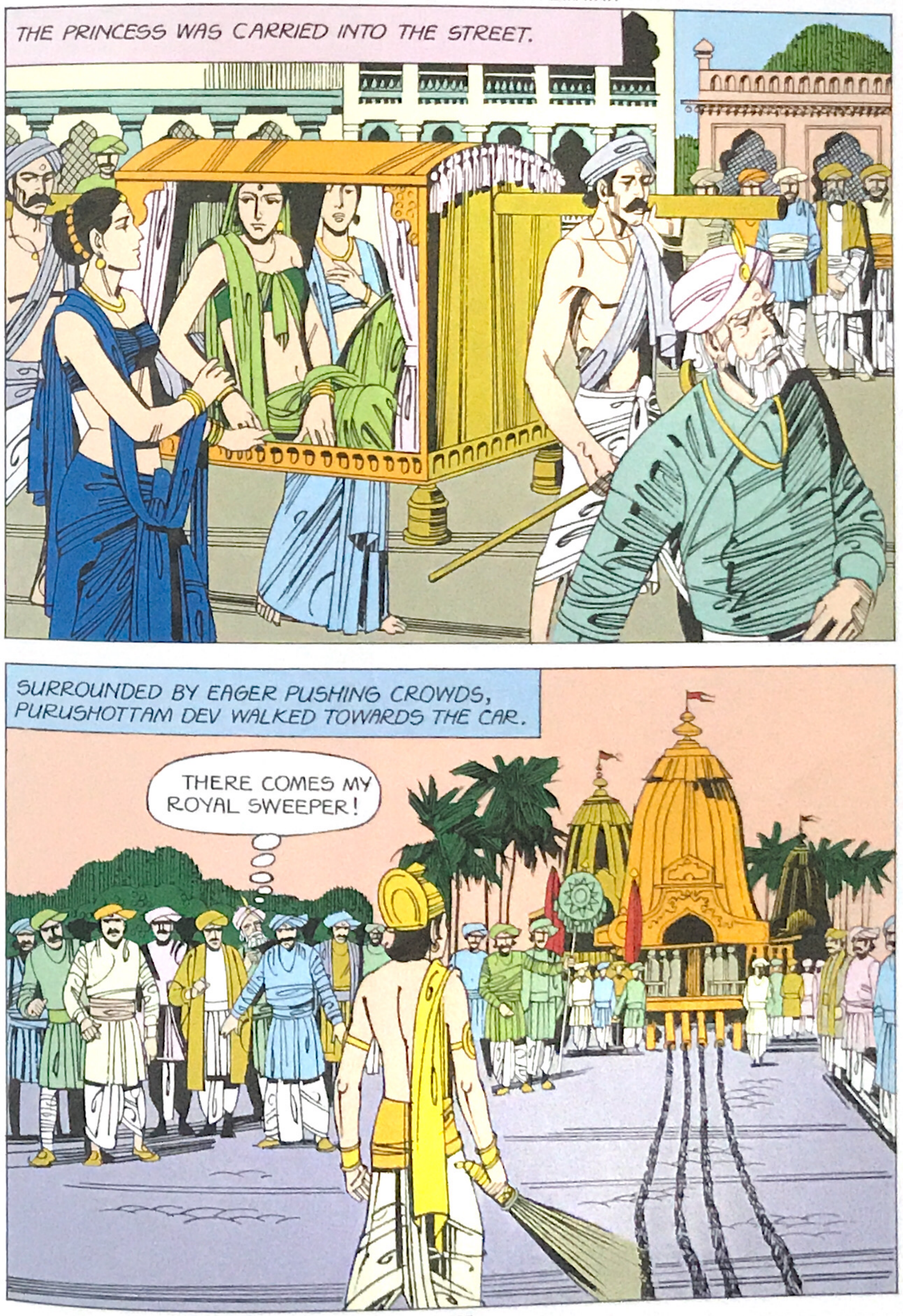

THE MINISTER HESITATED.
IT IS NOT EASY, YOUR MAJESTY.
I GIVE YOU A MONTH'S TIME TO CARRY OUT MY ORDERS. NOT A DAY MORE.

THE DAYS PASSED AND THE MINISTER WONDERED HOW HE WOULD MAKE THE KING SEE SENSE. MEANWHILE THE DAY OF THE CAR FESTIVAL CAME ONCE AGAIN. MILLING CROWDS THRONGED THE TEMPLE.

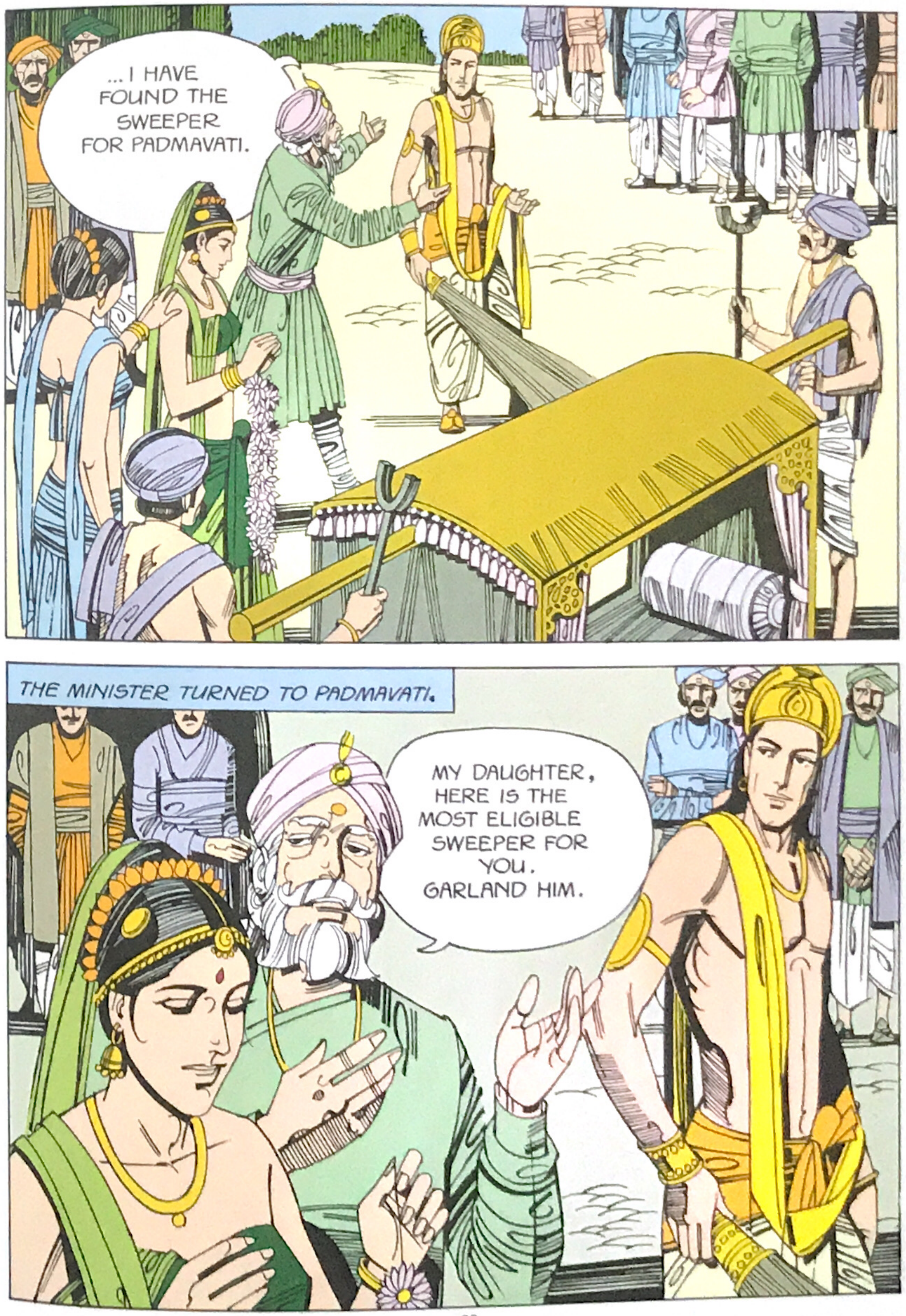

THE CARS WERE READY TO BE DRAWN.


ROYAL MUSICIANS HERALDED THE ARRIVAL OF THE KING.

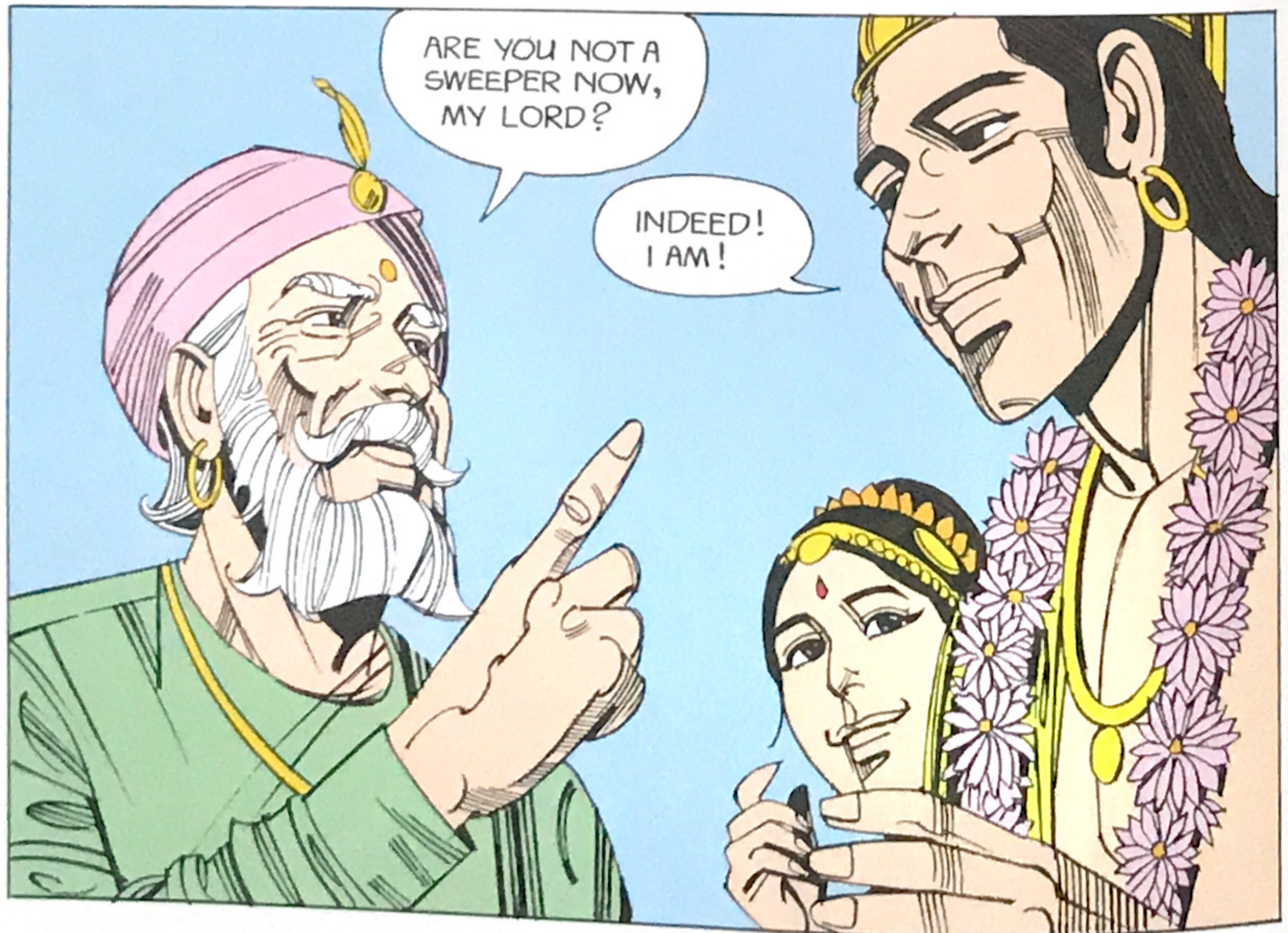

AND THE KING ARRIVED.
AS PADMAVATI SAT ALONE IN HER APARTMENT, THE OLD MINISTER CAME TO HER.
GET READY, MY CHILD. I WILL HAVE TO GET YOU MARRIED. TODAY IS THE LAST DAY.
THE PRINCESS GOT UP, TREMBLING.
MINE IS A SAD TASK. FORGIVE ME, MY CHILD.
YES. TODAY I SHALL DIE. SWEET POISON, DO NOT FAIL ME.
HER MAIDS DRESSED HER.
MAKE ME BEAUTIFUL. FOR TODAY I ENTER THE KINGDOM OF DEATH.


THE PRINCESS WAS CARRIED INTO THE STREET.
SURROUNDED BY EAGER PUSHING CROWDS, PURUSHOTTAM DEV WALKED TOWARDS THE CAR.
THERE COMES MY ROYAL SWEEPER!

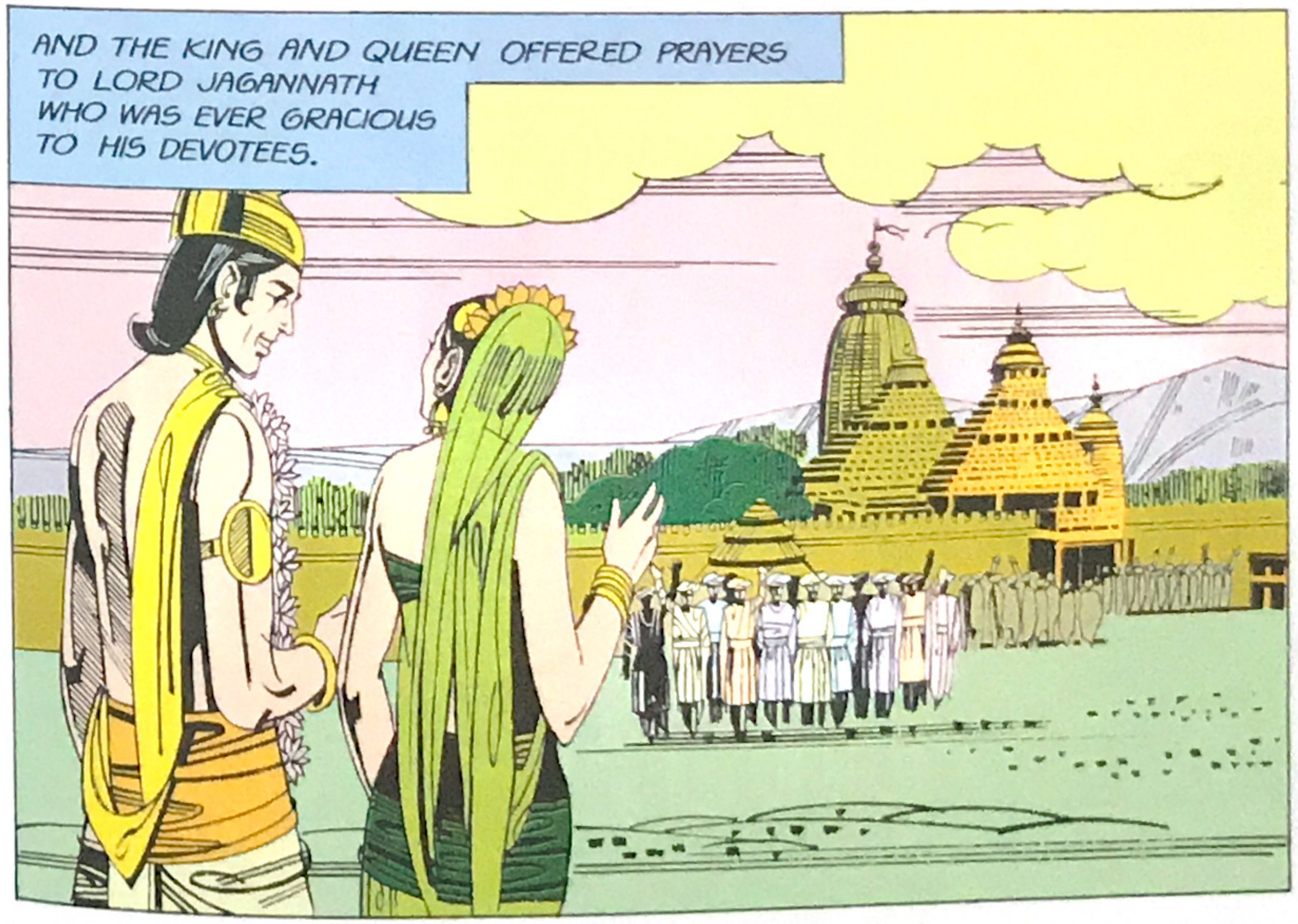
WHEN THE SYMBOLIC ACT OF SWEEPING WAS OVER...
...THE MINISTER RUSHED FORWARD.
MY LORD! MY LORD!
YOUR MAJESTY, I HAVE DONE IT...
WHAT IS IT, MY NOBLE MINISTER?


...I HAVE FOUND THE SWEEPER FOR PADMAVATI.
THE MINISTER TURNED TO PADMAVATI.
MY DAUGHTER, HERE IS THE MOST ELIGIBLE SWEEPER FOR YOU. GARLAND HIM.

PADMAVATI WAS ONLY TOO GLAD TO DO AS HE BID.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, MY MINISTER?


ARE YOU NOT A SWEEPER NOW, MY LORD?
INDEED! I AM!

THE CROWD WAS JUBILANT. THEY KNEW THAT THEIR KING WAS EXTREMELY HAPPY. HE KEPT HIS WORD AND HE KEPT HIS LOVE.
GOD BLESS OUR KING.
GOD BLESS QUEEN PADMAVATI.


AND THE KING AND QUEEN OFFERED PRAYERS TO LORD JAGANNATH WHO WAS EVER GRACIOUS TO HIS DEVOTEES.